

LOUISIANA DEPARTMENT OF WILDLIFE & FISHERIES



**OFFICE OF FISHERIES
INLAND FISHERIES SECTION**

PART VI -A

WATERBODY MANAGEMENT PLAN SERIES

POVERTY POINT RESERVOIR

LAKE HISTORY & MANAGEMENT ISSUES

CHRONOLOGY

DATE – May 9, 2006

Prepared by Ryan Daniel, Biologist Supervisor, District 2

Updated January, 2009 by R. Daniel

Updated March, 2013 by R. Daniel

Updated February, 2016 by R. Daniel

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LAKE HISTORY

GENERAL INFORMATION

Date reservoir formed

Construction began in 1995, impounded Jan. 2001, opened to public April 21, 2003

Impoundment

Owners – State of Louisiana

Purposes for Creation - State Park and recreation primarily, other named purposes include potential water usage, groundwater protection, economic development, and retirement development.

Size

2,785 acres

Watershed

Approximately 4,000 acres, mostly agricultural and roadside ditches. Lake is filled by pumping from Bayou Macon with a 36" and 18" pump.

Pool stage

83.2 ft. MSL

Parish/s located

Richland

Border waters

Bayou Macon runs along eastern border with spoil bank forming the boundary.

Spillway width

80 ft.

Drawdown description

Spillway -

Gate size - 17 ft. wide x 11 ft. tall tainter gates

Number of gates - 4

Condition – New

Who controls

Justification for a drawdown must be approved by Secretary of State Parks, who will make a request to the Secretary of DOTD. For a fisheries management drawdown, the Secretary of LDWF would make the request in writing to State Parks. The letter from LDWF will indicate the date for gate opening and the rate of drawdown desired for management purposes.

LAKE AUTHORITY

The Department of Culture, Recreation, and Tourism is the authority for regulations and management of Louisiana State Parks, including Poverty Point Reservoir.

Association

Poverty Point Reservoir District: The district was created for the purpose of the development of the wealth and natural resources by the conservation of soil and water for agricultural, commercial, recreational, industrial, and sanitary purposes. Duties relevant to Poverty Point include issuing permits for pier construction and making recommendations to State Parks.

The original appointed board is still valid as of December 2015. The board meets on an as-needed basis and serves as an oversight group to the Poverty Point Home Owners Association and works in cooperation with State Parks.

Members – see [Appendix I](#) for a list of members

Contact information – included in **Appendix I**.

Authorization

Members are appointed by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by the governing authority of Richland, Madison, East and West Carroll Parishes. The district is considered a component unit of the State because the State exercises oversight responsibility in that the Governor appoints the board members and public service is rendered within the State's boundaries. Created by R.S. 38:3087.1

ACCESS

A map with locations is included in [Appendix II](#).

Boat docks

State Park North facility: concrete ramp can accommodate up to 5 boat trailers at once. Asphalt parking lot with a 100 vehicle/trailer capacity. State Park South facility: concrete ramp can accommodate up to 5 boat trailers at once. Asphalt parking with a 75 vehicle/trailer capacity. Overflow parking area available.

Piers

Fishing pier located at north State Park facility, adjacent to boat ramp and marina. Bank fishing allowed at both north and south facilities

State/Federal facilities

Poverty Point Reservoir State Park: facilities located along LA Hwy 17, north of Delhi, Louisiana. Web address: <http://www.crt.state.la.us/louisiana-state-parks/parks/poverty-point-reservoir-state-park/>

- North Entrance: boat launch, fishing pier, fish cleaning station, marina, swimming area.
- South Entrance: boat launch, fish cleaning station, camping, nature trail.

Fishing Structures

Nearly 50 large brush piles were constructed on the lake bottom prior to impoundment to increase angler success. These piles were scattered throughout the lake and most are completely submerged and unmarked.

SHORELINE DEVELOPMENT

State Park Facilities

Poverty Point Reservoir State Park has facilities on the north and south ends of lake (mentioned above).

Residential

Homes are mainly restricted to the east and west sides of the lake. Man-made peninsulas were constructed on the east side of the lake for real-estate development (see **Appendix II**). All houses on the east side are within a gated community.

PHYSICAL DESCRIPTION OF LAKE

Shoreline length

Approximately 10 miles

Timber type

Lake bottom is mostly comprised of agricultural fields, and some dead hardwood and cypress standing along old oxbows and near the marina. No significant amount of timber is found in the area around lake.

Average depth

7.4 ft.

Maximum depth

28 ft. in oxbow areas

Natural seasonal water fluctuation

Normally no greater than 2.5 ft.

EVENTS / PROBLEMS

Water Level

Pool stage water level is maintained by State Parks through the use of two large surface water pumps in the adjacent Bayou Macon. Pumping is normally required during mid to late summer. Two wells also provide a ground water source. Currently, there are no irrigation restrictions for Poverty Point or Bayou Macon. This is an issue that State Parks recognizes as a potential for conflict and must be resolved (correspondence with the previous Park Manager Larry Taylor, 6/06). During the summer of 2011, the lake level receded nearly three feet due to drought conditions. The Homeowners Association demanded that the State

Park operate the pumps to bring lake level to near pool stage, claiming that the lake was to be maintained at pool stage as stated in the homeowner's contract. Pumping was initiated and continued until rainfall brought the level to near pool stage.

MANAGEMENT ISSUES

AQUATIC VEGETATION

Vegetation is limited primarily to *Potamogeton* species, alligator weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides* and water primrose *Ludwigia uruguayensis* in shallow areas around the shoreline. The high turbidity of the lake has limited the growth of submersed species thus far, although coontail *Ceratophyllum demersum*, southern naiad *Najas guadalupensis*, and hydrilla, *Hydrilla verticillata* have been documented. Hydrilla was first observed during the 2006 type map (see below) only in the northeast cove of the lake. It was soon treated with Aquathol Super K (granular endothall) at a 4 ppm rate or 30 lbs. per surface acre. A total of 7.7 acres was treated. It has not been observed in the reservoir since the application. Water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes* has also been found in small patches along the shoreline in several locations around the lake. It has typically been treated with glyphosate (0.75 gals/acre) or 2,4-D (0.5 gals/acre) when outside of the waiver period of March 15 – Sept. 15.

Type Map

Type maps were completed in 2006 and 2010 and revealed minimal coverage of aquatic vegetation on Poverty Point Reservoir. No species were considered to be problematic or an impending threat. A copy is attached in [Appendix III](#).

Treatment History by Year

Nuisance aquatic vegetation on Poverty Point has required infrequent control using herbicides. Emergent species such as alligator weed, water pennywort, and primrose have required the most effort, especially in some shallow coves. Treatments for these species have included glyphosate (0.75 gal/acre) or 2,4-D (0.5 gal/acre) when outside of the waiver period of March 15 – Sept. 15. In 2012, the herbicide Ecomazapyr (Imazapyr) was used for the first time for emergent control at a rate of 0.5 gal/acre. Water hyacinth has required minimal control in the past. Treatments for water hyacinth include 2,4-D (0.5 gal/acre), though glyphosate (0.75 gal/acre) is used during the Louisiana Department of Agriculture and Forestry waiver period. Aquathol Super K (granular endothall) was used in 2006 at a rate of 30 lbs./acre in an attempt to remove a small area of hydrilla. The application proved to be successful, as it is no longer found in the lake. A summary of vegetation requiring control with herbicide is shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Herbicide application history for Poverty Point Reservoir, 2005 - 2015.

YEAR	ACTION
2005	maintenance spraying of water hyacinth
2006	maintenance spraying of water hyacinth, primrose attempted eradication of hydrilla in northeast cove of lake by application of granular Aquathol®
2007	maintenance spraying of water hyacinth, primrose
2008	maintenance spraying of water hyacinth, primrose
2009	maintenance spraying: alligator weed (10 acres), water hyacinth (42 acres)
2010	no herbicide applications
2011	no herbicide applications
2012	maintenance spraying: alligator weed (29 acres), pennywort (5 acres), primrose (6 acres)
2013	maintenance spraying of emergent vegetation (13 acres)
2014	no herbicide applications
2015	no herbicide applications

HISTORY OF REGULATIONS

Recreational

Black Basses (largemouth bass *Micropterus salmoides* and spotted bass *M. punctatus*)

April 2003 (opening of lake to angling): slot of 14" – 17", daily creel of 5 with 1 over the slot in effect.

Oct. 20, 2004 Largemouth Bass Slot Increase: The slot limit for bass was increased from 14" – 17" to 15" – 19" to protect faster growing bass and increase trophy potential. Creel remains 5 bass per day with 1 over the slot. This change in regulation was partly due to requests by bass anglers and comments originating from April 2004 public hearing.

Crappie (black crappie - *Pomoxis nigromaculatus* and white crappie - *P. annularis*)

April 2003 (opening of lake to angling): 50 fish creel, no size limit

Oct. 20, 2004 Crappie Creel Reduction - The crappie daily creel was reduced from 50 to 25 because of angler concerns of over harvesting and high angling pressure on a small new lake. These concerns were documented during the April 2004 public hearing, where most agreed on the new creel limit. A self-clearing creel survey performed during the winter of 2003-2004 revealed that most anglers were not harvesting over 25 fish.

In addition to public appeal, the creel was lowered to allow for a more equal distribution of what may be prove to be a limited resource with the high rate of angling on this lake.

January 2005- The following recreational gears were prohibited to preserve the recreational integrity of the state park: hoop nets, wire nets, yo-yo's, trotlines, and slat traps. This rule is defined in R.S. 56:410.10.

The recreational fishing regulations may be viewed at the web address below:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/regulations>

Commercial

Commercial fish netting is prohibited.

The commercial fishing regulations may be viewed at the web address below:

<http://www.wlf.louisiana.gov/regulations>

DRAWDOWN HISTORY

No Poverty Point Reservoir drawdowns have been conducted.

FISH KILLS/ DISEASE HISTORY/ LMBV

May 21, 2002 Fish Kill- An estimated 3,000 common carp *Cyprinus carpio* and 5,000 yellow bullhead *Ameiurus natalis* were found dead, and some bullhead were still dying. No other species were observed to be stressed. Water quality was normal. Samples were sent to Dr. Hawke at Louisiana State University (LSU), who confirmed the kill was caused by fish-borne bacteria. The primary disease in both species was caused by the bacterium *Columnaris* spp. The bullheads also had a secondary infection of septicemia caused by the bacterium *Aeromonas* spp. There are high densities of both carp and bullhead in the lake. The kill was deemed to be a positive occurrence for the lake.

July 1, 2008 – common carp were collected by a pathologist from Warm Springs Fish Health Center as part of a broad based study on carp disease.

June, 2013 – A kill involving only common carp was reported in early June, 2013. Several thousand fish were estimated to have died. The kill persisted for a period of 2 – 3 weeks. Dr. John Hawke of LSU determined the kill to be caused by the Koi Herpes Virus and also found elevated presence of *Columnaris* spp., though it was thought to be a secondary infection.

CONTAMINANTS/ POLLUTION

Water quality

None performed by LDWF or LDEQ.

BIOLOGICAL

Fish samples

History – Standardized sampling was initiated in 2001.

Gear- The following is a summary of past and future sampling (Table 2).

Table 2. The historical, current and future scheduled fisheries sampling conducted on Poverty Point Reservoir, 2001 – 2018.

POVERTY POINT RESERVOIR SAMPLING	
Note: All sampling conducted as per LDWF Standardized Sampling Guidelines.	
2001	<p>Electrofishing: (6)15 minute samples in fall. <i>Note: 15 minutes is not the total time required for the sample. LDWF electrofishing samples are defined as 900 seconds of time that electricity is actually being applied into the water. In addition, other parameters such as sampling equipment, time of day, time of year and sample site are all consistent.</i></p> <p>Frame/Lead Nets: 5 sets during fall. <i>Note: 1 set consists of a frame net and 4 lead nets of the following mesh sizes fished simultaneously in same area: 0.5", 1.0", 1.5", and 2.0". Nets fish for 48 – 96 hrs.</i></p>
2002	Electrofishing: (6)15 minute samples spring and fall
2003	<p>Electrofishing: (6)15 minute samples spring and fall</p> <p>Lead Nets: 6 sets during fall.</p> <p>Self-Clearing Permit Creel Survey: initiated in fall</p>
2004	<p>Electrofishing: (6)15 minute samples spring and fall</p> <p>Shoreline seining: 4 stations during summer. <i>Note: a seine sample is defined as a minimum of a 1 quadrant of a circle haul at each location.</i></p> <p>Lead Nets: 5 sets during fall</p> <p>Self-Clearing Permit Creel Survey: Jan. – April.</p>
2005	<p>Electrofishing: (6)15 minute samples spring and fall</p> <p>Recreational Angler Survey: 6 surveys / month – 12 months</p> <p>Gill Nets: 6 sets during winter. <i>Note: a gill net set consists of 4 gill nets of the following mesh sizes fished simultaneously in the same area: 2.5", 3.0", 3.5", and 4.0". Nets fish for 24 hrs.</i></p>
2006	<p>Electrofishing: (6)15 minute samples spring and fall</p> <p>Aquatic Type Map: summer (lakewide)</p> <p>Lead Nets: 5 stations during fall</p>

2007	Electrofishing: (6) 15 minute samples spring and fall Lead Nets: 5 stations during fall Catfish Sampling during fall: gear not yet determined
2008	Electrofishing: (6) 15 minute samples spring and fall Lead Nets: 5 stations during fall Gill Nets: 6 stations during winter Recreational Angler Survey: 6 surveys/month – 12 months
2009	Electrofishing: (6) 15 minute samples spring and fall Aquatic Type Map: summer (lakewide) Crappie Tagging Study: approx. 250 crappie will be tagged to determine angler exploitation Recreational Angler Survey in Conjunction with Crappie Tagging Study: 6 surveys/month Jan.-May and Oct.-Dec.
2010	Electrofishing: (6) 15 minute samples spring and fall Lead Nets: 7 stations during fall Stock Assessment Study: Year 1 (largemouth bass and crappie age/growth, largemouth bass genetics)
2011	Electrofishing: (6) 15 minute samples spring and fall Lead Nets: 6 stations during fall Stock Assessment Study: Year 2 (largemouth bass and crappie age/growth, largemouth bass genetics) Gill Nets: 3 stations during winter
2012	Electrofishing: (6) 15 minute samples spring and fall Lead Nets: 6 stations during fall Stock Assessment Study: Year 3 (largemouth bass and crappie age/growth, largemouth bass genetics)
2013	No Sampling
2014	Electrofishing: (6) 15 minute samples spring and fall Gill Nets: 3 stations during winter
2015	No Sampling
2016	Lead Nets: 6 stations during fall

2017	Electrofishing: (6) 15 minute samples spring and fall Gill Nets: 3 stations during winter
2018	No Sampling

Lake records

No official records are kept, though the State Park has documented large fish caught. Reportedly, a 13 lb. largemouth bass, a 15 lb. channel catfish, a 33 lb. blue catfish, and a 3.8 lb. black crappie (currently number 1 on state record list) have been the largest of these species documented in Poverty Point. As of January 2016, there are also four white crappie from Poverty Point Reservoir which is listed among the 10 largest white crappie reported on the Louisiana Outdoor Writers Association state records. Their records can be found at the following link:

<http://www.laoutdoorwriters.com/Records/LouisianaFishRecords/tabid/87/Default.aspx>

Stocking History

Poverty Point pre-impoundment waters included two farm ponds, borrow pits, and two Bayou Macon oxbows. Fish were removed from pre-impoundment waters in the summer of 1997. Stocking was initiated in November, 1997. Species stocked thus far include Florida largemouth bass, both native and copper nose bluegill *Lepomis macrochirus*, redear sunfish *L. microlophus*, channel catfish, and black crappie.

Table 3. The stocking history of Poverty Point Reservoir, LA from 1997 – 2015.

Date	Species	Size	Number	Notes
Nov. '97	Redear Sunfish Sun.	adults	96	1 acre pond near office
Nov. '97	Redear Sunfish	fingerlings	167,379	1 acre pond near office
April '98	FLMB	adults	226	pre-impoundment waters
Nov. '98	Bluegill	fingerlings	14,085	north oxbow
Nov. '98	Coppernose Bluegill	fingerlings	16,480	south oxbow
March '99	FLMB	fry	100,000	
May '99	Bluegill	2.5"	660	bar pit near dam
May '99	Bluegill	6"	222	bar pit near dam
Feb. '01	Bluegill	fingerlings	116,072	
April '01	FLMB	1"	100,800	Tyler x Tyler
May '01	FLMB	1"	215,302	Cr1 x Cr1
April '02	Black crappie	68/lb	12,871	
April '02	FLMB	fingerlings	274,521	
April '03	FLMB	fry	224,413	133 lbs.
Oct. '03	Channel catfish	fingerlings	25,896	
March '04	Channel catfish	adult	40	Monroe hatchery
April '04	FLMB	fingerlings	282,162	
Oct. '04	Channel catfish	fingerlings	52,180	
April '05	FLMB	fingerlings	129,475	
May '05	FLMB	fingerlings	152,499	
Spring '06	FLMB	fingerlings	125,800	

Spring '07	FLMB	fingerlings	132,580	
Spring '08	FLMB	fingerlings	139,600	
Spring '09	FLMB	fingerlings	148,441	
Fall '09	FLMB	Phase II	2,727	
Spring '10	FLMB	fingerlings	4,095	
Spring '11	FLMB	fingerlings	50,994	
Fall '11	FLMB	Phase II	1,006	
Spring '12	FLMB	fingerlings	50,042	
Spring '14	FLMB	phase 2 fingerlings	21,072	
Spring '15	FLMB	phase 2 fingerlings	20,010	

Scheduled Fish Stockings

Largemouth Bass - Stocking rate for fingerlings has been 50 FLMB fingerlings per surface acre through 2009. There are an estimated 1,000 acres of suitable bass habitat in Poverty Point Reservoir. In 2011, the stocking rate for fingerlings became based on acres of suitable bass habitat rather than total surface acres. Phase 2 fingerlings (2-3 inches) have been stocked into certain Louisiana waterbodies at a rate of 20 per acre since 2013 as per the LDWF Inland Fisheries stocking policy. Florida bass will continue to be requested for stocking as long as they are considered beneficial to the fishery.

Other Species – Stockings for most native fishes are considered to be successful when a self-sustaining population is attained. Such is the case in Poverty Point. No current evidence indicates a need for additional native species. A request was made in 2015 for the stocking of hybrid striped bass *Morone chrysops* x *M. saxatilis* in 2016. The high percentage of open water habitat and abundance of shad *Dorosoma* spp. were two key factors in the request for this species. If a fishery develops and anglers approve, additional stockings will be made.

Species profile

A post impoundment list of fishes sampled is found in [Appendix IV](#).

Genetics

Only the Florida strain of largemouth bass has been stocked into Poverty Point Reservoir. Stocking was initiated in 1998 after the pre-impoundment waters were treated with rotenone to remove the existing fish population. It is believed that northern largemouth bass were introduced into the reservoir during the initial filling through pumping from the adjacent Bayou Macon. Genetic sampling began in 2001 and will continue periodically to monitor the influence of stocking. Samples showed a steady increase in the presence of the Florida gene from 27% to 57% over the period of 2003 to 2011. The 2012 sample showed slightly less presence of the Florida gene, though 48.7% is well above the state mean for waterbodies stocked with Florida bass. Results of recent samples are shown below in Table 4.

Table 4. Genetic composition of largemouth bass samples from Poverty Point Reservoir, LA 2009 – 2012.

<u>Year (n)</u>	<u>% Florida</u>	<u>% Hybrid</u>	<u>% Northern</u>
2009 (74)	17.5%	40.5%	42.0%
2010 (256)	15.4%	26.0%	58.6%

2011 (268)	15.0%	42.0%	43.0%
2012 (263)	7.2%	41.5%	51.3%

Threatened/endangered/exotic species

No fish species sampled.

CREEL

The objective of a creel survey is to determine a relative index of fishing pressure, catch, harvest, success, and which species anglers preferred.

Historic Information/Type

September 2003 through March 2004 Self-Clearing Creel - interview forms given to anglers entering the state park were to be completed and placed in a box when done fishing. Anglers were asked how long they fished, what species they fished for, the number kept and released, and whether released bass were in the slot limit.

2005 Recreational Angler Survey - This creel survey was an access point survey designed to provide monthly estimates of total catch, harvest, length frequency of the harvest, and release by species. State Parks provided the number of vehicles entering each access site each month. Surveys were performed 6 days a month at either of the 2 ramps. Dates and ramps were selected randomly, with 4 of the days per month being on weekends. All anglers completing a fishing trip were interviewed over a 5 hour period in either the morning or evening. Anglers were asked what species they fished for, how long they fished, how many they caught, how many they kept, and how far they drove. Ten fish of each species were randomly selected from each creel to measure total length.

2008 Recreational Angler Survey – This survey was conducted the same as 2005 survey, except only 3 surveys were conducted per month from October – December.

2009 Recreational Angler Survey in Conjunction with Crappie Tagging Study – survey was similar to the previous one (described above), but questions pertaining to crappie regulations were be asked of all crappie anglers. Only crappies were to be measured.

2012 Recreational Angler Survey in Conjunction with the 3-Year Stock Assessment Study – 6 surveys conducted per month at either of the 2 boat launches, with monthly frequency influenced by estimated launch use. Information gathered was identical to the 2005 survey. The data was used to assess the angling mortality component for the stock assessment study.

HYDROLOGICAL CHANGES

None

WATER USE

Water Supply

One original purpose of the reservoir was water supply for the town of Delhi and neighboring communities. It was stated to have the ability to supply 65 million gallons of water monthly for residential and commercial usage. The reservoir has not yet been used for this purpose.

Recreational Use

1. Hunting: not permitted
2. Skiing: allowed in designated area
3. Scuba Diving: not suitable (murky water)
4. Swimming: allowed at State Park beach
5. Boating

Irrigation

Only residential lawn irrigation is allowed. No restrictions are currently in place.

APPENDIX I.

[\(return to Association \)](#)

Poverty Point Reservoir District, Board of Commissioners

**Post Office Box 811
Delhi, LA 71232
(318) 878-8572**

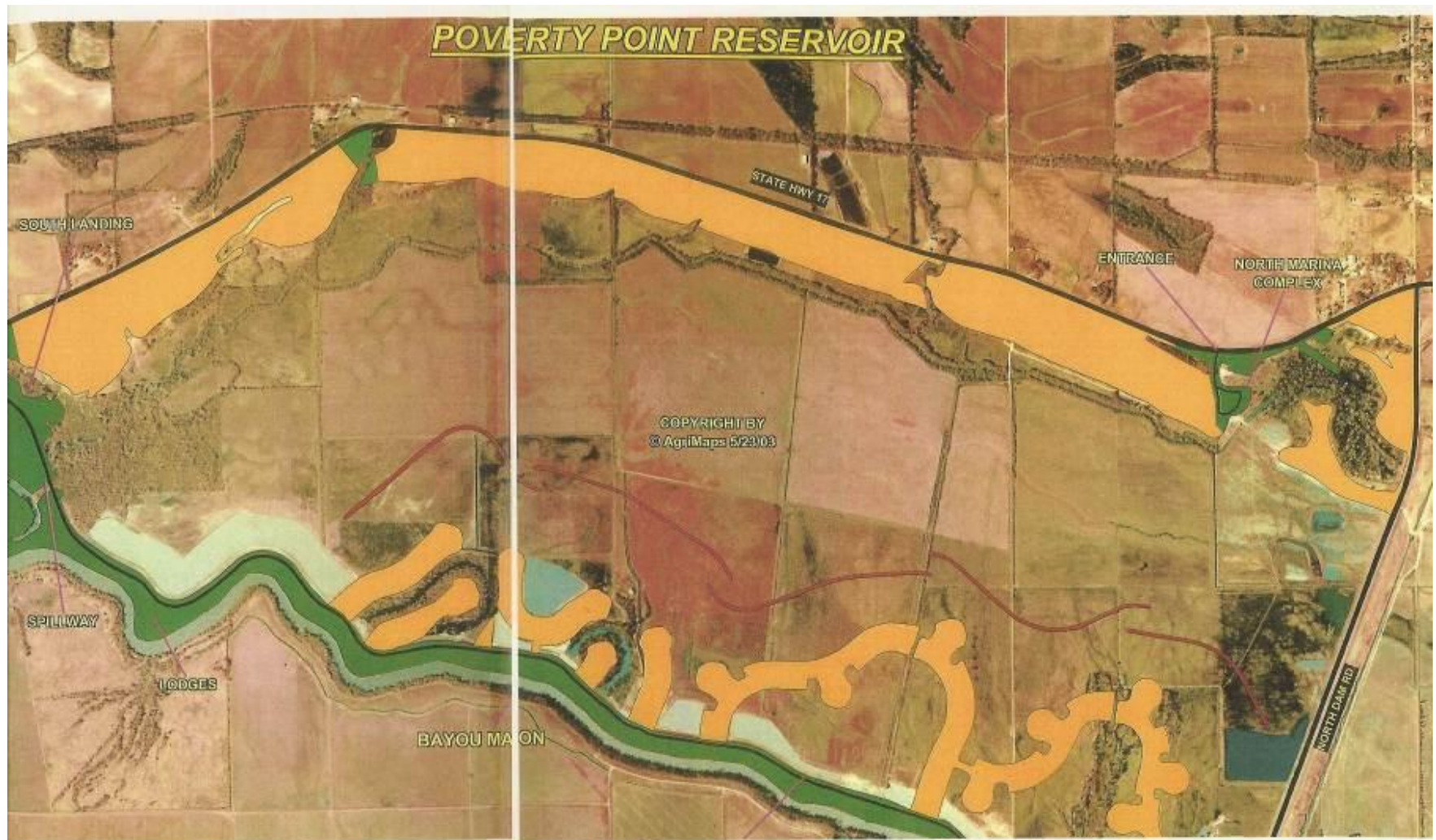
Members shall be appointed by the Governor from a list of nominees submitted by the governing authority of Richland, Madison, East & West Carroll Parishes; 5 members shall be appointed at the discretion of the governor, 2 of whom shall be minorities.

(created by R.S. 38:3087.1)

Armstrong, Sylvia	723 Riverside Drive Lake Providence, LA 71254	(318) 559-2158	8/21/2000
Doughty, David	Rt 3 Box 123 Rayville, LA 71269	(318) 728-2401	8/21/1996
Eiland Jr., Ed	112 Robin Hood Lane Delhi, LA 71232	(318) 878-5857	8/21/1998
Gammill, Mike	P.O. Box 136 Oak Grove, LA 71263	(318) 428-4431	8/21/1996
Martin, Mike President	107 Greenwood Place Delhi, LA 71232	(318) 878-2663	8/21/1998
May, Cleophas	P.O. Box 81 Delhi, LA 71232	(318) 878-2615	2/19/1998
Morse, James	1216 Desoto Tallulah, LA 71282	(318) 574-4319	8/21/2000
Thompson, Brant L	Rt 1. Box 246 Delhi, LA 71232	(318) 878-9600	8/21/1998

APPENDIX II. Poverty Point Reservoir Map

([return to Access](#))



Appendix III

[\(return to Type Map\)](#)

Type Maps

Type map of 2006

Poverty Point Reservoir in Richland Parish was surveyed for aquatic vegetation by Inland Fisheries personnel Ryan Daniel and Randy Lively on August 30, 2006. Species composition, abundance, and location were determined by travelling the entire shoreline by boat. The lake was approximately 15 inches below normal pool stage.

Submersed species identified included:

- southern naiad *Najas guadalupensis*
- coontail *Ceratophyllum demersum*
- hydrilla *Hydrilla verticillata*

The following emergent and floating species were also identified during the survey:

- alligator weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides*
- American pondweed *Potamogeton nodosus*
- water primrose *Ludwigia uruguayensis*
- water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*

The vast majority of both the submersed and emersed species were found in the numerous coves and areas protected by wind breaks around the lake. Almost all of the vegetation was restricted to within 10 ft. of the shoreline, probably due to the high turbidity of the water. The main lake area, which is subject to severe wind and wave action, is mostly void of vegetation. Water primrose was the most common species present and was found in many of the coves on the west side of the lake. American pondweed was also abundant, especially on the east side of the lake and along the windbreaks. A few of the coves had a fringe of southern naiad extending out 5 ft. from the shoreline. Coontail was found mixed with other species in several locations but rarely forming pure stands. Isolated sprigs were observed scattered throughout many coves. Alligator weed was mixed with the primrose in several locations, but these 2 species were not at excessive amounts. There was no vegetation present in areas where rocks had been placed to control bank erosion.

Poverty Point Reservoir
Vegetation Type Map
August 30, 2010

A type map survey of Poverty Point was conducted on 8/31/10 by LDWF Inland Fisheries biologists Ryan Daniel and Kane Finkbeiner. A boat was used to travel the entire shoreline with observations recorded on a map and notebook and locations marked by GPS. Current lake level was approximately 82.0 ft., which is 1.2 ft. below pool stage.

Vegetation was mostly restricted to the shorelines of the protected coves of the lake. Almost none was found on the main lake shoreline or around the windbreaks. Alligator weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides* and water primrose *Ludwigia uruguayensis* are the most common species in the lake and are restricted to the immediate shoreline, rarely growing over 10 ft. from the shoreline. Most of the coves had moderate coverage of these species. Coontail *Ceratophyllum demersum* and southern naiad *Najas guadalupensis* were the only submerged aquatic species observed. Coontail was present in the coves at the south boat ramp and at the marina on the north end of the lake, while naiad was only seen in a cove near the marina. In most areas, the coontail was growing to depths of only 1 ft., but was found in depths up to 3 feet in a cove near the marina. The only floating species observed was duckweed *Lemna minor*, which was only found interspersed with alligator weed or primrose and considered insignificant. A few small patches of American pondweed *Potamogeton nodosus* were observed near the south boat ramp and a cove near the marina. Much of the American pondweed near the south ramp was completely out of the water due to the low water level. A yet-to-be identified emergent (similar to water willow with opposite leaves and white flowers on a terminal spike) was abundant on some the shoreline near the marina. Other species listed below but not previously mentioned were present but not in significant amounts. See attached "field notes" and map for more detailed description of vegetation locations and coverage.

SPECIES LIST

- Alligator weed *Alternanthera philoxeroides*
- American pondweed *Potamogeton nodosus*
- Coontail *Ceratophyllum demersum*
- Duckweed *Lemna minor*
- Duck potato *Sagittaria latifolia*
- Pennywort *Hydrocotyle spp.*
- Southern naiad *Najas guadalupensis*
- Water primrose *Ludwigia uruguayensis*

Submerged vegetation continues to be very limited in Poverty Point. This is most likely due to the turbid conditions and wind action. Developed areas of the shoreline, where sea-walls and rip-rap have been constructed are mostly void of vegetation. Neither hydrilla *Hydrilla verticillata* nor water hyacinth *Eichhornia crassipes*, which were both present during the 2006 type map survey, were observed in 2010. Both of these species had been treated with herbicides in past years. Currently, vegetation is causing no problems in the lake, nor are there any species to cause concern, although there are 2 large mats of alligator weed covering nearly an acre of shallow water in the back of the cove at the State Park manager's residence on Hwy. 17. There is no need to treat this area, as it probably provides needed cover for small fish.

Coverage of American pondweed was less than in 2006, but this may partially have been a result of the hydrilla control. There was significant coverage of this species a few years ago, but now it is insignificant. This should be noted since American pondweed can provide needed shallow cover for fish in the absence of true submerged species.

APPENDIX IV
([return to species](#))

**Post-Impoundment Fish Species Documented in Poverty Point Reservoir
From Standardized Sampling Initiated November 2001**

AMIIDAE (Bowfin Family)

Bowfin, *Amia calva* (Linnaeus)

ATHERINIDAE (Siverside Family)

Brook Silverside, *Labidesthes sicculus* (Cope)

CATOSTOMIDAE (Sucker Family)

Smallmouth Buffalo, *Ictiobus bubalus* (Rafinesque)
Bigmouth Buffalo, *Ictiobus cyprinellus* (Valenciennes)
Black Buffalo, *Ictiobus niger* (Rafinesque)

CENTRARCHIDAE (Sunfish Family)

Bluegill, *Lepomis macrochirus* (Rafinesque)
Black Crappie, *Pomoxis nigromaculatus* (Lesueur)
White Crappie, *Pomoxis annularis* (Rafinesque)
Largemouth Bass, *Micropterus salmoides* (Lacépède)
Redear Sunfish, *Lepomis microlophus* (Gunther)
Warmouth, *Lepomis gulosus* (Cuvier)

CLUPEIDAE (Herring Family)

Gizzard Shad, *Dorosoma cepedianum* (Lesueur)
Threadfin Shad, *Dorosoma petenense* (Gunther)

CYPRINIDAE (Minnow Family)

Common Carp, *Cyprinus carpio* (Linnaeus)
Golden Shiner, *Notemigonus crysoleucas* (Mitchill)
Bullhead Minnow, *Pimephales vigilax* (Baird and Girard)

ICTALURIDAE (Freshwater Catfish Family)

Channel Catfish, *Ictalurus punctatus* (Rafinesque)
Yellow bullhead, *Ameiurus natalis* (Lesueur)
Black bullhead, *Ameiurus melas* (Rafinesque)
Blue Catfish, *Ictalurus furcatus* (Rafinesque)
Flathead Catfish *Pylodictis olivaris* (Rafinesque)

LEPISOSTEIDAE (Gar Family)

Spotted Gar, *Lepisosteus oculatus* (Winchell)

Longnose Gar, *Lepisosteus osseus* (Linnaeus)

POECILIIDAE (Livebearer Family)

Mosquitofish, *Gambusia affinis* (Baird and Girard)

MORONIDAE (Temperate Bass Family)

White Bass, *Morone chrysops* (Rafinesque)

Yellow Bass, *Morone mississippiensis* (Jordan and Eigenmann)

SCIAENIDAE (Drum Family)

Freshwater Drum, *Aplodinotus grunniens* (Rafinesque)